

THE INFLUENCE OF LIVING CONDITIONS ON THE BEHAVIOR OF PIGS

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Introduction. It is well known that the effective management of the pig industry is based on the use of intensive methods of pork production and the latest technologies, but keeping animals in industrial complexes often does not meet their physiological characteristics, which adversely affects animal health and productivity. Studies in different temperature periods are especially important [1-4]. In connection with the above, we note that the purpose of our research was to study the ethological indicators

(behavioral reactions) of young pigs under the influence of various room temperature factors in a commercial farm.

Materials and methods. To achieve this goal, 2 groups of pigs of 20 heads each were formed for fattening, aged 100 - 110 days. The method of studying the behavior of pigs - visual video surveillance. The control group of animals was kept in accordance with the requirements of VNTP - APK - 02.05 at a temperature of 17-21⁰C, the experimental group was kept at a temperature of 24-27⁰C, given the hot arid climate of southern Ukraine [5].

Results. Studies have shown that the motor activity (standing, moving, fighting) of the animals of the experimental group was increased by 18.2% (p <0.01), compared with the control. The time spent searching and eating increased in the experimental group by 9.6%, but the difference is unlikely. The time spent on the animals of the experimental group decreased by 15.5% (p <0.01), due to their desire to find a cool place under elevated ambient temperature. The above features of the behavior of pigs in different housing conditions are reflected in the indices of functional activity. The highest value of the index of motor activity was inherent in the animals of the experimental group, whose pigs were in conditions of elevated temperature. In turn, the highest value of the index of feed activity at the level of 0.21 was characterized by young pigs of the experimental group, and the rest index - was characteristic of animals of the control group, which was in optimal temperature according to the requirements of VNTP - APK - 02.05.

Conclusions. Based on the research, we state that in response to keeping fattening pigs in the room under contrasting temperature conditions, the animals react by changing behavior as follows: the highest value of the index of motor activity was inherent in the experimental group, which was at + 24- + 27⁰C, and the lowest value of the index of motor activity was characteristic of the animals of the control group, which was at an air temperature of + 17- + 21⁰C; The highest value of the index of forage activity had young pigs of the experimental group, and the index of rest - was inherent in the animals of the control group, which was in the optimal temperature in accordance with the requirements of VNTP - APK - 02.05.

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